

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for manufacturing of an attrition resistant vanadium/phosphorous oxide catalyst involving forming an aqueous slurry comprising; vanadium/phosphorous oxide catalyst or vanadium/phosphorous  
5 oxide catalyst precursor particles, an aqueous solution of  $H_3PO_4$ , and optionally an aqueous colloidal silica sol, an aqueous polysilicic acid solution or mixture thereof and then spray drying the slurry to form attrition resistant catalyst precursor followed by calcining/activating the spray dried precursor. Such a catalyst is particularly useful in oxidation processes such as the catalytic air  
10 oxidation of butane to maleic anhydride.